# WALKING TRAILS

Over 20km of scenic walks and private beaches to explore



## Walking Tips

**Fitness:** A reasonable to high level of fitness is required for all trails due to the hilly terrain and warm climate.

**Water:** Taking water is essential. 1-2 litres per person, per hour.

Hat/sunblock: Use regardless of weather conditions.

**Shoes:** Most trails are rocky. Sturdy, enclosed footwear with good tread is required.

**Clothing:** Wear comfortable and breathable clothing that protects you from the sun, including a hat.

Irukandji Jellyfish: Irukandji – a small and transparent jellyfish - can be present in the waters of the Whitsunday Islands, predominantly during the summer months. They are more commonly found in deep water, however there have been an increased number of occurrences in shallow waters recently. Symptoms of an Irukandji sting include severe pain, muscle constriction and breathing difficulties which require immediate medical attention. For this reason, we recommend that you avoid swimming in secluded beaches. If you choose to swim in the ocean - instead of one of the many pools - we recommend you wear a stinger suit and swim in the presence of others so assistance can be given if needed. We would strongly advise that small children and guests who are pregnant, have a heart or pre-existing medical condition, only swim in our pools.

**Snacks:** Health food bars and fruit are suggested.

Walking alone: Inform someone where you are going and when you will be back. There is no mobile coverage in some areas of the tracks.

Camera: Great idea!

**Insect repellent:** Use for your own protection.

Please note there are no toilets on the walking trails.

Gympie-Gympie Stinging Tree: Gympie-Gympie has broad oval or heart-shaped leaves with saw-tooth edges and white or purple-red fruit. They are covered in stinging hairs which appear furry. Brushing against the tree will cause the hairs to embed into the skin and cause an extremely painful stinging sensation. If stung, do not rub the area, and seek urgent medical attention. Please stay on marked trails to avoid contact with the plant.

Sharks: Hamilton Island is part of the Whitsundays marine ecology and sharks frequent the waters in the region. Whilst the risk of attack is very low, it does exist. We recommend that you don't swim at dawn, dusk or at night or in unclear water. Always swim with others. Leave the water quickly and calmly if you see a shark or if fish begin to gather in large schools, jump out of the water or behalf erratically.

For more info contact the Tour Desk on 07 4946 8305 or ext 68305

WALKING TRAIL DESCRIPTIONS

#### **Coral Cove**

Starting from the Scenic Trail Entrance via Saddle Junction, Coral Cove is a secluded, peaceful and relaxing beach where you can enjoy views south to Lindeman Island. This is where you will find the giant swing. **Grade 3** (Moderate) walk.

#### **Escape Beach**

From the Scenic Trail Entrance, continue through Saddle Junction to Escape Beach. Here you'll find clear waters lapping onto a sandy beach protected by huge rocky outcrops as well as a giant hammock. These spectacular features create a secluded and charming retreat. For the adventurous, this walk can also include South East Head and Passage Peak before returning back to Saddle Junction. **Grade 3** (Moderate) walk.

## Flat Top Hill Lookout

Start from the Resort Trail entrance and continue to the Resort Lookout Junction. Walk along the Saddle Junction Trail for 100m where a left turn will take you onto the Flat Top Hill Trail. From there, it is only a short walk to the Flat Top Hill Lookout, where you can sit back and relax, taking in the magical views to the north and south. **Grade 3** (Moderate) walk.

#### **Hideaway Bay**

Like the name suggests, this hidden beach is just a short stroll away from the Scenic Trail entrance. Discover this secluded bay where you can enjoy the tranquil waters and views towards Whitsunday Island. **Grade 3** (Moderate) walk.

#### **Middle Head Trail**

Starting from Turkey Nest Junction, this trail takes you along a landscape rich in Australian native flora. Middle Head trail ends at the top of a hill with glimpses of the Whitsunday islands and waters to the south. **Grade 3** (Moderate) walk.

### Passage Peak

It is recommended the Passage Peak walk is commenced from the Scenic Trail Entrance. This is a spectacular but challenging walk. Once you have negotiated the final steep section of this trail you will be rewarded with breathtaking views of the Whitsundays from the highest point on Hamilton Island, Passage Peak. **Grade 3** (Challenging) walk with many steps.

#### **Resort Lookout**

This is an excellent introduction to our island walks, taking you through typical Whitsunday bushland starting at the Resort Trail Entrance. The Resort Lookout is the second highest point on Hamilton Island. It drops off to sheer cliffs and allows an excellent panoramic view of the resort, Marina Village, airport and surrounding islands. The Resort Trail Entrance is at the eastern end of the Conference Centre. **Grade 3** (Moderate) walk.

#### Saddle Junction

Starting from the Scenic Trail Entrance, follow the Scenic Trail to Saddle Junction, which is the main junction for the Passage Peak, South East Head, Escape Beach, Middle Head and Coral Cove Trails. **Grade 3** (Moderate) walk.

#### South East Head Trail

Dense bush gives way to exposed, rocky features and sharp cliffs on this trail. Abundant native grasstrees and stunning views of the Lindeman group of islands awaits you at the end of this walk. This is also where the giant chair is located. For the adventurous, include a walk via Passage Peak or Escape Beach before returning to Saddle Junction. **Grade 3** (Moderate) walk.

#### GUIDED WALKING TRAIL TOURS

Discover the island on a spectacular guided walk with our resident tour leader. These walks are seasonal, visit the Hamilton Island App for more information.



• Please take note of other important walking tips on the reverse of this handout.